

Saudis to continue Islamic donations — but no politics

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia, accused by some Arabs of aiding Muslim fundamentalists, Tuesday pledged it will go on channeling financial assistance to Islamic communities around the world — but only if they are strictly non-political.

The pledge was made by Prince Sultan, the defence minister who is third in line to the Saudi throne, after chairing the first session of one of two Islamic councils set up by King Fahd to streamline Islamic activities in the kingdom following an unprecedented crackdown on radicals.

Prince Sultan told the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs that Saudi Arabia "stands firmly against terrorism and all those who practise terrorism under the cloak of Islam when Islam absolves itself from them."

The kingdom, he said, "will not extend any assistance to the parties that practise political activities and try their politicking under the alleged mantle of the Islamic faith while exercising destruction in their societies."

But, he went on, "the kingdom will not spare any effort to extend the hand of assistance to all constructive Islamic societies and minorities in our societies, those who project a good image of the Muslim religion."

He stressed that such assistance must not be construed as intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

The oil-rich kingdom, which holds Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina, is the leading state donor and collector of private donations for Islamic causes, communities and societies around the world.

It also leads efforts to spread Islam through building mosques and aiding religious societies among the world's one billion Muslims.

Faced with complaints from allies like Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak



Munther Haddadin

Water talks to open in Athens on Saturday

CASABLANCA (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of a working group on water affairs in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process due to open in Athens on Saturday.

The fundamentalists are campaigning for even stricter enforcement of Islamic Sharia in the already puritanical kingdom.

Prince Sultan's council has grouped several key ministers, including those holding the interior, foreign affairs and Islamic affairs portfolios, to coordinate the "activities of several government parties in one body."

The two councils will seek to check the spread of fundamentalism in the kingdom, implement an education reform programme to prevent young Saudis being recruited by extremists, and seek to reconcile the kingdom with governments critical of its adherence to Sharia.

"This council is mandated to serve Muslims whether Muslim minorities or Muslim countries by sending delegations, preachers, help build mosques, set up schools for learning the Koran," he said.

He said the delegates will discuss the prospect of setting up a water data bank providing water-related information to countries in the Middle East region.

The Athens meeting, he added, will discuss a Jordanian proposal to work out a regional charter for Middle East water resources cooperation.

Casablanca summit exceeds all expectations

By Julie Bradford
Agence France Presse

CASABLANCA — A landmark Middle East economic summit ended here Tuesday after exceeding all expectations in pushing forward trade and political links between Israel and Arab states, delegates and organisers said.

"People warned a first too high expectations but the peace has gone beyond that," said Bruce Kashdan of the World Economic Forum, which organised the conference.

"Even the Saudi Arabians said they were in favour of peace while they were here — and yet they are outside the peace process."

Israeli businessmen and politicians were jubilant after a conference which saw them meet up with all Arab delegations.

Politicians left confident that high-level meetings with Gulf Arab representatives would result in official ties in coming weeks, while executives were delighted to find a way into the profitable Gulf market.

"This forum was a big happening," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur.

"There has been a psychological breakthrough, shown by the talks I had with representatives from Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Qatar."

"Our aim now is to sell fresh food products to Gulf countries, because it is a market of several dozens of millions of dollars," Mr. Tzur said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the closing ceremony: "Participants here introduced a new morning into a region covered in clouds. It will continue to shine in the future."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said he was delighted to have met ministers from Qatar, Tunisia and Indonesia.

The final Casablanca dec-

laration pledged to explore ways to "overcome, as soon as possible, obstacles including boycotts and all barriers to trade and investment."

It "noted favourably" the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council to ease the economic boycott on Israel, imposed by the Arab League in 1951.

A committee of experts is to study plans for a Middle East development bank and report back in six months, while a regional tourism board and chamber of commerce are to be created.

Ur. Tzur, director general of the Israeli tourism ministry, said the conference marked the Casablanca summit out as "the economic equivalent of Madrid."

The Middle East peace process was launched at the 1991 Madrid conference, co-sponsored by the United States and Russia.

The Casablanca forum also represented the "unofficial funeral of the boycott," Mr. Savir said. "Arabs have realised that by boycotting Israel, they are boycotting themselves."

Businessmen appeared to have already forgotten about the boycott. Danny Gillerman, head of the Israeli chambers of commerce, said he and his Qatari counterpart had agreed to meet again soon.

Yoram Blitovsky, a leading Israeli industrialist, said he had been "very nicely surprised" by the forum.

Executives had "talked real business" and joint Israeli-Arab companies were on the way.

A Qatari businessman said he and his colleagues were interested in projects Israel had to offer, and believed the end of the boycott was simply an official announcement away.

A Gulf diplomat said meetings had "broken down the walls of hate."

Billions of dollars' worth of ambitious projects were discussed during the conference.

including the Jordan Valley development plan, oil pipelines and thousands of kilometres of roads linking Arab states.

But many delegates admitted that Middle East politics had swamped the economic side of the forum — right from the opening day Sunday, when a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat attracted world attention.

Hisham Awartani, a Palestinian economic expert, said: "The conference was intended in the first place to serve businessmen."

It was intended to fulfil a political agenda, mainly for the Israelis," said the professor from Nablus University on the occupied West Bank.

"That agenda was to get the Arab boycott lifted and there was a lot of arm-twisting went on during meetings between Israelis and Arabs."

During the conference Mr. Arafat announced the creation of a port and free trade zone in Gaza, and Palestinians said they had raised \$1 billion in investment.

The final declaration said it was important that Israel did not close off Palestinian territories and recognised the "urgent need" for economic development there.

Israel closed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank on October 19 after an Islamic militant blew up a Tel Aviv bus, killing 23 people.

Dr. Awartani said he believed the international community had simply paid the Palestinian delegation lip service.

There were still no promises from the World Bank to unlock international aid pledged to the Palestinians, he said.

"Yet it is very politicised part of the world and if the World Bank does not play a fair role then everyone will be in trouble."

On the Israeli leg of the trip starting Thursday Mr. Ciller will meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman, her opposite number Yitzhak

Ciller embarks on Mideast trade tour



Tansu Ciller
Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres

The trip is expected never to focus on "big projects," Israeli officials said.

Israel, Jordan and Palestinians in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip are keen to buy water from Turkey, and an ambitious pipeline project to the region will feature prominently in discussions.

Ankara is also anxious to develop the East Mediterranean Tourism Association created with Israel and Egypt last November, and construction projects in northern Gaza, notably a highway linking the region to major European motorways.

Mr. Ciller will make a brief visit to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Sunday before heading for Cairo and talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian Ambassador Ankara Mohammed Al Daimani said transportation and encouraging investment would dominate the agenda.

Ms. Ciller is to return to Turkey on Monday.

"Turkey is a very important Muslim country of the region. It is also secular... cooperation is necessary for the strategic interests of both countries," Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yaakov Berlin told Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper.

Israel wants Turkish participation in development projects in China where they have strong ties.

Mr. Ciller, during a Middle East economic summit in Morocco, said on Monday that Turkey was willing to consider ways in which its surplus fresh water could be used in the arid Middle East.



Shimon Peres
Tansu Ciller
Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres

Shatila camp epitomises Palestinian refugees' plight in Lebanon

By Mariam M. Shahin

SHATILA — The population of the notorious refugee camp in the centre of Beirut is 5,000.

But, the wretched, the wretched Lebanon's capital have ruled out the continued existence of the camp.

But, the camp is to be eliminated together, as to the remainder of the place and people who stayed here for the past 46 years. Hotels and recreation areas adjoining the to-be-built sports city and prestigious centre will take Shatila's place, burying the last sign of the almost half a century presence of Palestinian exiles under steel and concrete.

The fate of Lebanon's Palestinians is one of the most precarious of any in the region. It is a subject that has been put on the "back-burner" — for discussions "later".

The future of Palestinian in Lebanon has not even been touched upon in the three-year-old peace talks between Arabs and Israelis.

The records of the U.N. agency designed to meet the needs of Palestine refugees, UNRWA, say that there are 370,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. But even that number is disputed. UNRWA officials in Vienna say that

those who stayed behind.

With the exception of a few lucky Palestinian refugees who were given visas to countries like Sweden, Denmark and other Northern European nations, most who were not killed in one of the many wars stayed here in this half-rebuilt town... Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, unlike those who live in Syria and Jordan do not have the same civil rights as do citizens of their host country.

"Until the international community figures out what to do with them the numbers will not be investigated or made public," he said.

Lebanon's delicate political structure, based on a division of political posts accorded to different religious sects and groups, is considered endangered by the Palestinians who are almost entirely Sunni Muslim. A small Christian minority who retains refugee status.

Caught in a Lebanon rebuilding itself after almost 20 years of civil war and sectarian strife, the Palestinians are caught between Lebanese bred of their presence and no place to go.

The Israelis are not expected to let back a small number (under 10,000) and no other Arab

country wants more refugees. Citizenship for most is not an option although a few, mostly Christians and wealthy Muslims, were able to buy Lebanese nationality.

"Most of us Palestinians Christians were given Lebanese nationality early on when we came," said Nuha Abdul Nahr, a Palestinian from Haifa whose family was given Lebanese nationality in the 1960s.

"Until the international community figures out what to do with them the numbers will not be investigated or made public," he said.

One of the main requests made by representatives of the different Palestinian factions in Lebanon to the Lebanese government is that their camps be rebuilt from shelling in 1985. The camps have become a substitute symbol for suffering as a nation, says Ms. Nahr.

But it is evident that Shatila is still that camp, entrenched in their adopted shelters. Shatila's main mosque serves as a memorial for over 100 people who were killed in there while seeking refuge from shelling in 1985. The camp has become a substitute symbol for suffering as a nation, says Ms. Nahr.

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Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday with visiting Czech Republic First Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Alexander Hassan (Petra photo)

ch business community ready joint projects in Jordan'

(J.T.) — A senior in the Czech Republic started a visit to Jordan, his country's business ready to investment projects Jordanian coun-

g after meeting Minister Abdul Ali, Alexander Vondra, deputy minister of his, said that joint were feasible now many had adopted market economy of communism. Vondra expressed the two sides will their relations in various especially after treaty has been heralding an era of stability.

Mr. Vondra had earlier

He said that in the wake of the treaty his country expected Jordan's relations with European countries to be strengthened.

Mr. Vondra, who conveyed his government's congratulations to the prime minister on the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, described the move as a historical step that further enhance the Jordanian role in the region.

Dr. Majali welcomed Mr. Vondra's bid for cooperation between the two countries saying that the Kingdom was consecrating its efforts in the coming stage towards further development and production and boosting trade and economic relations with all nations.

Mr. Vondra had earlier

met Nayef Hadid, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, and reviewed with him prospects for bilateral cooperation in several fields.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the Czech official as expressing his country's readiness to extend assistance to Jordan to enable the country to overcome present difficulties and cater to the responsibilities and requirements of peace.

Before the meeting with Mr. Hadid, Mr. Vondra discussed with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan questions related to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and prospects for increasing trade exchanges, protecting joint investments and preventing dual taxation.

In, NHF sign grant agreement for project to upgrade knitwear project

(J.T.) — The government of Japan and Noor Foundation Wednesday announced by which the government will give to one of the organization's for women, to an NHF state

Minister advisor to Queen Noor, agreement on behalf of Hussein and Ambassador Yuji Ikeda behalf of the government. NHF the end of March used to purchase and advanced machines for the project, to upgrade training and production. The project's policy is to increase women's participation by making it possible for

them to work in their homes. It assists women in obtaining machines, supplying them with raw materials, and providing marketing assistance.

In accordance with the NHF development philosophy which focuses on long-term integrated development projects that help families and communities reach self-reliance through democratic grassroots participation, the knitwear project aims at providing low-income women with the opportunity to participate in the process of economics and social development. The women are offered training in knitting and sewing, in addition to courses in basic accounting and management. According to NHF, high quality production is an essential part of the training.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

to be appointed to municipal panels who are of various European and American nationalities, will tour Petra and other archaeological sites. On Friday a small tourist ship with 23 Norwegian visitors is due at Aqaba port from Taba for a similar trip.

RJ announces scholarship plan AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has decided to grant 10 annual scholarships to Jordanian students, according to RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi Wednesday. He said that the scholarships will be in specializations needed by the RJ. The scholarships, which are to be offered to promising students, will start next coming year.

HUDD publishes list of new beneficiaries MADABA (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Wednesday published a list of beneficiaries of three housing projects in Zarqa, Taybeh and Manarah. HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the 13,000 people will benefit from these projects. The beneficiaries, he said, will be offered plots on 774 dunums, adding that JD 4.5 million have been spent on infrastructure and JD 3.2 million on community structures. According to Mr. Hiyasat, these plots, on which the beneficiaries will be permitted to build homes, have been fitted with a 36,605-metre-long water network, roads totalling 138,045 square metres in area, sewerage networks of 25,810-metres-long and rain water canals of 2,921 metres, in addition to unspecified lengths of electricity and telephone cables, plus public gardens and car parks. He said beneficiaries, who come from limited income groups and own no homes, will receive their plots by mid-1995, after all the community and social structures have been completed.

Minister to arrive for talks N (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad due in Amman Friday at the delegation for a several-day Jordan. The Yemeni delegation holds talks with Minister of Development Mohammad cooperation in social affairs and security matters.

Proposes cultural centre N (Petra) — Minister of Culture Hammad Wednesday disclosed a Greek cultural delegation proposed creation of a Greek centre in Amman. The idea, he said, considered Jordan as a venue because of its central location in the region, successful systems of security and democracy. He said that the delegation will send an invitation to the Ministry of Culture for her study of the project.

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Census to be taken next month — official

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will conduct its first census in 15 years between Dec. 10 and Dec. 15 and will aim at not only counting its population, but also determining various economic and social aspects of its people, the head of the Department of Statistics announced Wednesday.

Census takers will be posted at all border points, including the airport and Aqaba port, he said.

Unlike some countries which impose curfew-like conditions and force people to remain at home during population census, residents of Jordan are free to engage in their daily work without interruption, and there will be no official holiday for the purpose of census, Abdul Hadi Alawin said.

Dr. Alawin also told a press conference that all details provided by the people in a questionnaire will be kept in strict confidentiality and will be used

only for the purposes of the census.

The census will cover all residents of Jordan, Jordanians and non-Jordanians, as well as all those passing through the country during the census period to as much accuracy as possible, Dr. Alawin said.

Census takers will be posted at all border points, including the airport and Aqaba port, he said.

Jordan held its last population census in 1979 and found that its population was 2,132,000. Plans to conduct another in the late 80s failed to materialise because of the financial strains that hit the country in 1988-89.

International norms call for a general population census every 10 years, but few countries follow that practice.

Jordan's annual population growth is around 3.6 per cent, one of the highest in the world.

possible," he said.

Asked how the enumerators would be able to take in the details of residents who may not be present while they visit homes, Dr. Alawin noted that the period of census stretch for five days and census officials would pay return visits wherever needed.

Enumerators will go around in groups of three or four assigned with covering a specific number of houses during the six-day period. As such, they always have the choice of returning to houses where no one was available to provide proper information, he said.

More than 8,000 people are expected to pay door-to-door calls to take the details in addition to administrative staff. Most of the officials involved in the process will be government teachers and staff from the Department of Statistics.

As Dr. Alawin spoke,

other rooms of the Department of Statistics in Jabal Amman were hosting training classes for enumerators on how to ask questions and compile answers.

Dr. Alawin said the government had decided last year to conduct the census this year, and preparations had been going on for some time in terms of strategies and logistics.

The present population of Jordan is estimated at four million, including the 10 per cent increase that the Kingdom saw as a result of the massive wave of expatriates who returned home in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Alawin declined to provide a specific timetable for releasing the results of the census, but said the "first general result" — of the total number of people in Jordan, "will be released at an early date after the head-counting process is completed.

Jordan calls on UNRWA donor nations to provide sufficient aid for agency services

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan has called on United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) donor nations to provide sufficient assistance to maintain and improve the level of services the agency offers to the Palestine refugees.

Jordan's U.N. Ambassador, Adnan Abu Odeh, who made the appeal before a U.N. committee examining UNRWA's operations, said that the agency has been complained of recurrent deficits in its annual budgets which in turn adversely affects its educational and social and health services to the refugees.

According to the latest statistics, Jordan hosts 1,193,539

refugees out of a total of three million living in the Arab World — that is nearly 40 per cent of the total number of refugees, Mr. Abu Odeh said.

Regrettably, he said, UNRWA has allocated \$69 million out of its 1994 \$309.1 million budget for the refugees in Jordan, which means that the agency is counting on the Jordanian government for the major part of services to the refugees at a time when the Kingdom is facing increasing pressure from the rise in the number of these displaced people.

Any discrimination in services to the refugees from

one country to another would have its adverse repercussions which do not contribute positively to the peace process, warned Mr. Abu Odeh.

Welcoming UNRWA's decision to shift the agency's headquarters from Vienna to Gaza, Mr. Abu Odeh said that this would save a great deal in expenses and enhance services.

Jordan is intent on solving the refugee problem in cooperation with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Israeli government within the framework of the peace treaty, said Mr. Abu Odeh.

He said that in view of the difficulties Jordan is facing in catering to growing refugee needs, the Kingdom hopes that the donor nations would extend assistance to the country to help it pursue its humanitarian tasks.

Witnesses tell court subversion defendant 'mentally disturbed'

AMMAN (AP) — A man who allegedly planted a bomb that exploded in an Amman movie theatre, wounding himself and three others, was mentally disturbed, the State Security Court heard Tuesday.

The court, trying 25 alleged Islamist militants on charges of subversion, also heard that five other defendants had records of theft.

The men are accused of bombing two cinemas showing pornographic films and liquor stores and attempting to bomb state and private institutions in late 1993 and early this year.

The defendants, three of them being tried in absentia, are described by the prosecution as Muslim zealots who wanted to cleanse Jordan's predominantly secular Muslim society of what they saw as corrupt Western influences.

The prosecution says the men were linked to a clandestine group known as the "Arab Afghans," Islamic veterans of the 1979-89 war in Afghanistan when they fought alongside Muslim rebels against Soviet forces.

Prosecutors say the group, with cells throughout the Middle East, attempted to blow up U.S. and Israeli targets in the region.

They said bombs that exploded at liquor stores and movie theatres matched those found at the defendants' homes during a police crackdown in February.

In Tuesday's two-hour session, which was adjourned until Saturday, defence lawyers produced witnesses to support a claim that one of the defendants who lost his legs in one of the movie theatre's explosions was "schizophrenic" and could not be held accountable for his actions.

In pre-trial testimony, the man confessed to having been instructed to plant the bomb, which went off prematurely.

Court orders ban the media from reporting details of the trial, which began Aug. 27, or identifying the defendants or witnesses.

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NEW EU ENVOY: Yves Gazzo, the designate of the European Union Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday discusses ties with Jordan after presenting his credentials to Minister of State for

Wednesday (Petra photo)

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WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

★ Classical music concert at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, off the Balkan Art Gallery in Fuheis, on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture on "Acupuncture" by Dr. Nabil Madi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Bringing Up Baby" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY

★ Play for children (in Arabic) entitled Hakaya Abu Al Ajab" (Strange Stories) at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Friday at 3:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Salam Kan'an at the Balkan Art Gallery, Fuheis.

★ Exhibition of art by Annie Sakkab at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Ibrahim Al Abdali at Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Adnan Al Sharif at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ A special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

King tells tourists to avoid Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's head of state warned tourists to avoid his country as the bodies of three Western hostages killed by Khmer Rouge rebels were recovered, bound and shot, from graves found near a southern rebel base Wednesday.

King Norodom Sihanouk, saying Cambodia is "clearly insecure", joined foreign embassies in advising tourists to avoid Cambodia, shortly before the bodies were recovered at Vine Mountain, 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

"I condemn with the greatest severity the contemptible and unpardonable murderers who are responsible for the deaths of these three young gentlemen," King Sihanouk said in a statement dated Tuesday and issued to Reuters Wednesday morning.

British Mark Slater, 28, Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, and Australian David Wilson, 29, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge in a train ambush in southern Cambodia last July 26.

Alleged Pakistani remanded after kidnapping in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — An alleged Pakistani kingpin of the kidnap of four Western tourists just freed in India was remanded in police custody for two weeks Wednesday, charged under anti-terrorist laws.

The only time the strongly-built, bearded man, described as a "hard nut" by a senior police officer, spoke when asked if his name was Mohammad Nazir Khan, he said "yes".

The man was arrested late Monday in Delhi and gave his name then as Saifullah Khan, said the senior policeman, who asked not to be identified.

"From the sequence of events, we believe he is from Karachi, Pakistan, and had taken training in terrorist activities in Muzzafarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and in Kabul," the policeman said.

Mr. Khan faces a maximum of 10 years in jail if convicted for the kidnappings of one American and three British tourists.

Meanwhile, a top Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader has offered to end the bloody insurgency in Kashmir if India provides concrete assurances it will hold a plebiscite on the future of the disputed northern state.

"If India at this point of time assures the international community that it will hold a plebiscite in Kashmir, we are willing to give up arms," Shabir Ahmad Shah was quoted as saying in the state summer capital Srinagar.

The Press Trust of India said Mr. Shah, who was released from prison last month, made the remarks during a meeting Tuesday with Danish Captain Kurt Mikkelsen, the head of the U.N. Observers Group in Srinagar.

Mr. Shah said New Delhi had ignored the "full-throated slogans for a plebiscite" of the Kashmiri people, forcing an armed struggle to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority

Clinton defends gun control after shooting

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that he felt safe at the White House despite a shooting incident over the weekend, but said the attack underscored the need for gun control.

In a radio interview in Detroit, Mr. Clinton said the Secret Service was doing a good job of protecting him and his family despite two dramatic recent security breaches.

Former serviceman Francisco Martin Duran fired 20 to 30 shots at the presidential residence Saturday but was subdued by tourists and arrested. He has been charged with four felonies. No one was hurt in the attack.

In Washington, Mr. Duran refused to undergo a pretrial mental evaluation after his lawyer Leigh Kenny began filing motions to try to avoid one. Mr. Kenny filed an emergency motion to U.S. magistrate Deborah Robinson asking to delay the evaluation until after the pretrial hearing.

But Ms. Robinson denied the delay, and Mr. Kenny immediately appealed to U.S. District Court Judge John Garrett Penn, who also

travelled in armoured cars, visited the graves Wednesday to help identify the badly decomposed bodies.

The Cambodian government has said the bodies are certainly the Westerners' remains, but Australian ambassador to Phnom Penh Tony Kevin said forensic tests needed to be performed in the capital to put the identities beyond doubt.

The deaths were Cambodia's second tragedy involving Western hostages this year — the remains of an Australian and two British hostages were found in September — and evoked angry reactions from inside and outside the country.

"Permit me finally to advise Westerners and others to avoid travelling to Cambodia, because my country is in a state of war and is clearly insecure," King Sihanouk said.

A senior Cambodian army officer said Wednesday that the Westerners' bodies were bound with rope and had been shot at close range.

Embassy officials from Australia, France and Britain,

and Australia's Kevin called on the Cambodian government to spare no effort to find the murderers.

Mr. Kevin said the bodies would be repatriated quickly so that "the families can mourn them privately and properly."

The British embassy in Phnom Penh has called on its nationals not to visit Cambodia.

The flag at the French embassy in Phnom Penh was flying at half mast Wednesday. Jean-Claude Braquet has already identified one set of the remains as those of his son, diplomatic sources said.

In a separate development, heavily armed Thai commandos Wednesday kept watch on former Cambodian Interior Minister Sin Song, co-leader of a failed coup, after he was detained in Bangkok.

Mr. Sin Song escaped house arrest in Phnom Penh on Sept. 3. Last week a military court in the Cambodian capital sentenced him in absentia to 30 years jail for his role in an attempted coup on July 2.

The U.S. embassy in Phnom Penh condemned what it called "the brutal murder by the Khmer Rouge of three innocent tourists".

Gen. Paet, said to have ordered their execution in September, escaped the base after it was overrun by troops last week.

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Ahmed Y. Majdoub

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U.S. Federal Reserve flies to rescue after dollar hits record low against yen

LONDON (Agencies) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) intervened Wednesday afternoon on the London foreign exchange market to prop up the sagging dollar after the greenback fell to a post-war low against the yen, foreign exchange dealers said.

That marked the first Fed intervention since last June 24, they noted, and came after the dollar had plummeted to 96 yen in mid-afternoon, its lowest level since World War II. The move brought the greenback back up to 96.95 yen in late afternoon, against 96.80 Tuesday evening in London. The previous record low of 96.35 yen to the dollar came Tuesday last week.

The dollar stood at 1.5035 marks in late trading against 1.4958 Tuesday evening and

1.4933 shortly before the Fed intervention, which started at 1600 GMT. No other central banks joined in.

"It was a successful intervention, as the time was well chosen, just as European markets were closing," said Nick Parsons, an analyst at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He said the move surprised European market players short of dollars and socked them with sharp losses.

"That certainly won't be enough to keep the dollar higher in lasting fashion, but at least it reminds operators that they can lose money on the market, as well as make it," he commented.

This time, the Fed "is ready for anything to avoid letting its intervention fail," the analyst said. He noted it was accompanied by a statement by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen that the dollar's drop is "counter-productive" for the United States and the world economy.

Mr. Parsons expects the Bank of Japan to continue the intervention overnight on the Asian market. There might be some concerted intervention by several central banks if the dollar again weakens in the next few days.

The dollar has been weakened since Tuesday afternoon by renewed fears of U.S. inflationary pressures, in the wake of a higher-than-expected purchasing managers' index in October.

The market is waiting for U.S. October job figures due out on Friday to judge

whether the U.S. economic performance justifies an immediate increase in interest

rates.

Among European currencies, the mark suddenly

jumped during the day against the lira, hitting 1,031.7 lire to the mark, just a whisker from the Italian currency's record low against the mark of 1,032.50, last Aug. 12. The lira sagged on rumours — officially denied — that Premier Silvio Berlusconi would resign soon. The market is also concerned about the government's ability to meet deficit reduction goals.

Sterling firmed generally on what traders called a technical correction after its fall on Tuesday when a Bank of England report seemed to cast doubt on prospects for a rise in British interest rates in the near future.

At 1715 GMT, sterling was trading at \$1.6340 (against

1.6330 Tuesday evening in London), 2.4567 marks (2.4426), 158.42 yen (158.07), 2.0507 Swiss francs (2.0396), and 8.4233 French francs (8.3712).

The dollar stood at 1.5035 marks (1.4958), 96.95 yen (96.80), 1.2550 Swiss francs (1.2490), and 5.1550 French francs (5.1265).

Gold dipped to \$384 an ounce against 384.50 Tuesday evening.

The three-month Eurodollar rose to 5.625 per cent against 5.5625 Tuesday, while the British three-month interbank rate fell to 6.0625 per cent against 6.125 on Tuesday.

"I think this intervention, while it might hold the dollar in the near term, is only going to give the market better levels to sell," said Brian Martin, economist at Citibank in London.

Study: GATT will shave \$20b of U.S. trade deficit, boost growth

seven years of work by 123 countries.

The institute's estimates that by the year 2000 the trade agreement should raise U.S. exports by \$41.9 billion and imports, through reduced tariffs, by \$22.7 billion.

Under such circumstances, the U.S. trade deficit, which stood at \$115.8 billion in 1993, should drop by \$19.1 billion.

The Clinton administration believes the agreement will boost the yearly GDP from \$100 billion to \$200 billion and create 1.5 million jobs by the year 2000.

The Institute for International Economic Predicts only 265,000 new jobs in the same period.

Besides slashing tariffs, the Uruguay Round would eliminate protectionism for the first time in the service and agriculture multilateral mechanism to settle trade disputes.

Swedish finance minister recommends tax hikes, spending cuts until '98

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Finance Minister Goeran Persson presented a tough budget to lawmakers Wednesday including tax rises and spending cuts designed to boost state coffers by \$7.1 billion kronor (\$8.15 billion) to 1998.

For the mandate period to 1998, Mr. Persson recommended savings of 25.5 billion kronor (\$3.64 billion) and a net income increase of 31.6 billion kronor (\$4.51 billion).

For 1995 Persson recommended improving the state finances by 29.8 billion kronor (\$4.25 billion), including 12.1 billion kronor (\$1.72 billion) in savings and 17.7 billion kronor (\$2.52 billion) in net income increase.

The 1995 budget year will run for 18 months from July 1, 1995 to Dec. 31, 1996, with budgets in future running from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

The Social Democrat government also intends to propose additional savings of 20 billion kronor (\$2.85 billion)

Expert says Asia needs \$400b in power sector investments until 2004

MANILA (AFP) — Asian countries need up to \$400 billion in investment in power generation over the next 10 years to meet the demands of fast-growing economies, a World Bank energy expert has said.

The government thus plans to pull in a total of 113.4 billion kronor (\$16.2 billion) by 1998. That figure includes Wednesday's proposed 57.1 billion kronor, January's 20 billion kronor proposal, plus previously agreed upon measures of 18.3 billion kronor (\$2.61 billion) and reduced interest payments of 18 billion kronor (\$2.57 billion).

Mr. Persson said unemployment in 1995 would drop to 6.9 per cent from the eight per cent forecast this year. The government has proposed several measures to reduce unemployment, and aims to give jobs or training to 80,000 disabled workers.

The government expects the budget deficit to decrease sharply this year.

mand was estimated at about 7.3 per cent a year over the next decade.

This translates into an additional generation capacity of 290,000 megawatts (MW) from 1994 to 2004, or about 1,800 MW of new power every month, he added.

Mr. Malhotra, World Bank energy adviser for the region, warned that the magnitude of investments may pose financial problems as traditional lenders such as his bank and the Asian Development Bank "are unlikely" to exceed 15 per cent of the total financial requirement.

"As Asia is likely to continue to experience the world's fastest economic growth rates, its energy needs will double over the next decade requiring investments in the power sector alone of about \$300 to \$400 billion," he told an Asian energy conference here.

He said a recent World Bank study involving 10 Asian countries showed an average rise in power generation participation.

Tourism to Turkey hurt by Kurdish threats

ISTANBUL (R) — Threats by Kurdish guerrillas to disrupt Turkey's lucrative tourism and lingering economic problems in western Europe are likely to cost Turkey some \$700 million in lost revenues this year, tour operators say.

Turkish officials had projected that tourism, after textile exports the country's biggest foreign currency earner, would bring in some \$4.7 billion from 7.5 million visitors.

But bombings by separatist

Kurdish guerrillas in Istanbul

and coastal resorts coupled with economic woes in Europe have forced officials to revise figures downward.

In the first nine months of this year some 5.2 million people visited Turkey — up 2.6 per cent from the first nine months of 1993 — and the end of the high season makes any late burst unlikely, tour operators told Reuters this week.

"Normally we see a 15 to 20 per cent increase in arrivals year to year, but this year we will have about the same numbers as 1993," said

Suba Uyar, general secretary of the Turkish Tourism Operators Agency (Tursab).

Revenues are expected to end at about \$4 billion, the same as last year, while the number of visitors will remain around the 6.5 million in 1993.

Tourism figures show large drops in visitors from western European countries.

The number of German tourists in the first nine months of this year was down 17 per cent, while visitors from Belgium declined 19 per cent, Swiss travellers were

down by 47 per cent and French visitors fell by 25 per cent.

Overall, tourism from western Europe was down by 12 per cent in the first nine months. Only Iceland, Ireland and Britain showed rises in visitors.

Some of the numbers are being made up by tourists from the former Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States — many of whom come for the shopping rather than the sun — and Israelis, whose numbers have jumped by more than 200 per cent.

tariff cuts on imports, in addition to incentives such as repatriation of capital and profits.

Mr. Jafarey said that, as a result of the reforms, the country's foreign exchange reserves had gone up from a low \$300 million a year ago to nearly \$3 billion.

He said Pakistan's stock market was expanding rapidly, but the money market and bond market needed time to grow.

A major thrust of Pakistan's policy was to attract foreign investment in the energy and telecommunication sectors, he said.

Pakistan has secured investment commitments \$4 billion from U.S. companies for thermal power generation projects.

Pakistan pledges continued deregulation

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan vowed to continue deregulation of its economy, as a three-day international conference on financial markets and investment opportunities in the country opened here Tuesday.

"We are gradually shifting from a regulated system to a market-oriented economy," a top economic aide to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told the meeting.

V. A. Jafarey, who opened the conference sponsored by the London-based Euro-money Conferences organisation, said the full impact of Pakistan's economic reforms would unfold gradually.

The reforms have already

lifted foreign exchange controls, simplified investment procedures and provided

tariff cuts on imports, in addition to incentives such as

repatriation of capital and profits.

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A major thrust of Pakistan's policy was to attract foreign investment in the energy and telecommunication sectors, he said.

Pakistan's collapse had undermined confidence in the fledgling market, reduced the appeal of long-term capital investments, and raised prices and inflationary expectations.

The Security Council has ordered the government to take quick and concrete steps to regulate the rouble rate and exchange operations," it said, without giving details of

specific measures.

"A blow has been dealt to the reform course, social stability, the living standards of a significant part of the population and the international standing of Russia," it said.

The Security Council, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin, said the consequences were long-term. It blamed lack of coordination between executive authorities as well as untimely and at times incompetent decisions by those who could have averted the crisis.

"Control over hard currency operations was not ensured, measures were not taken to stop speculation," it said.

Special attention would be paid to compensating those who suffered from the crisis, it said, without elaborating.

The currency collapse has already led to the ousting of acting finance minister Sergei Dubinin and central bank chief Viktor Gerashchenko.

Mr. Yeltsin has made clear that he sees the rouble fall as a deliberate action aimed at undermining him.

Russia to stabilise rouble after 'black Tuesday'

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Security Council said

Wednesday that the Oct. 11 "black Tuesday" plunge in the rouble had threatened market reforms and vowed to take urgent measures to stabilise the currency.

A statement by President Boris Yeltsin's press service said the influential council discussed a report by a special commission investigating the crisis.

It said the rouble's drop of more than 20 per cent against the dollar had been a threat to national security. The rouble fell to new lows of close to 4,000 to the dollar, but has since recovered to 3,093.

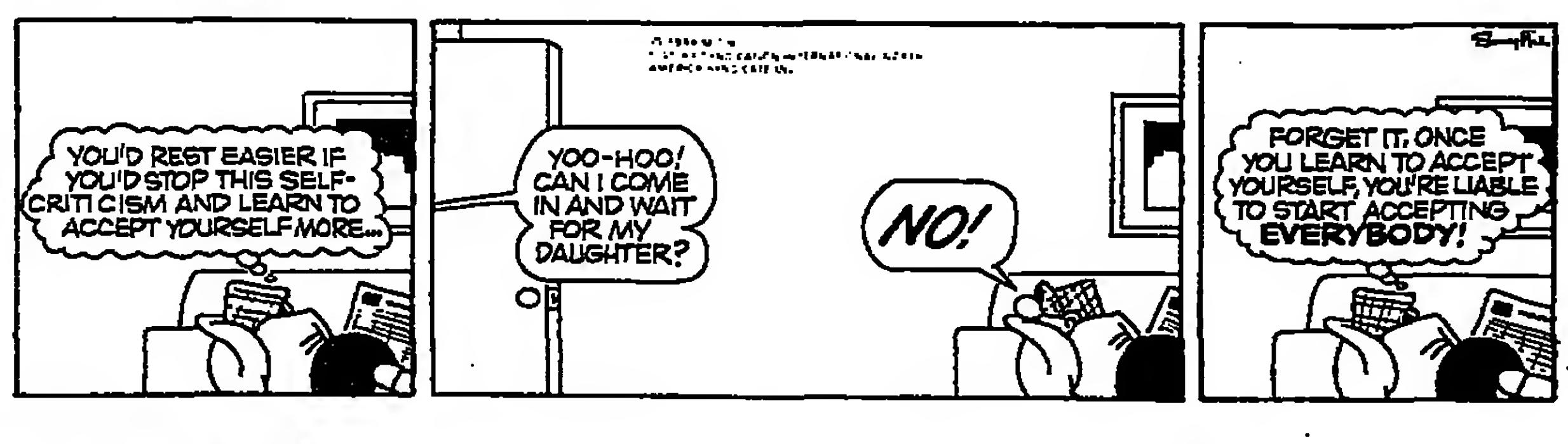
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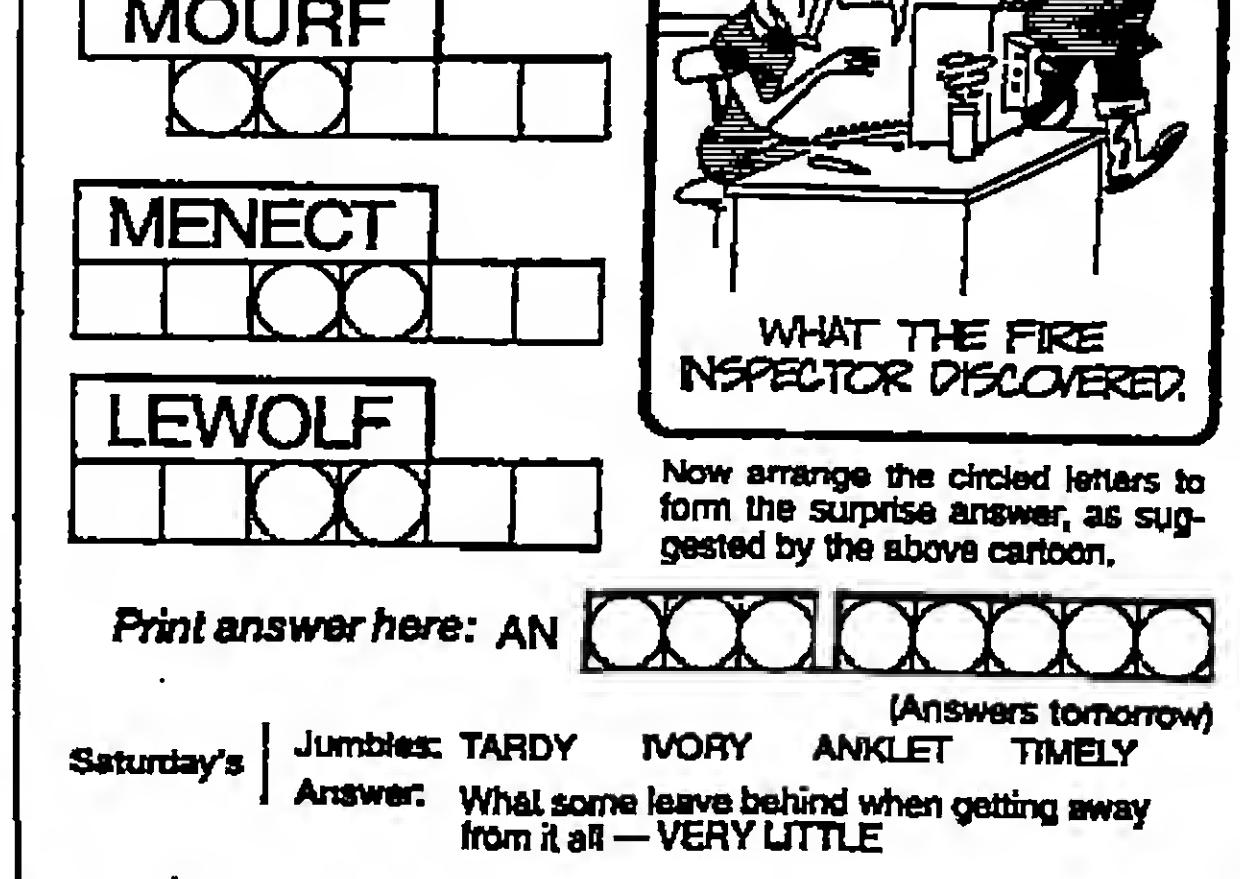
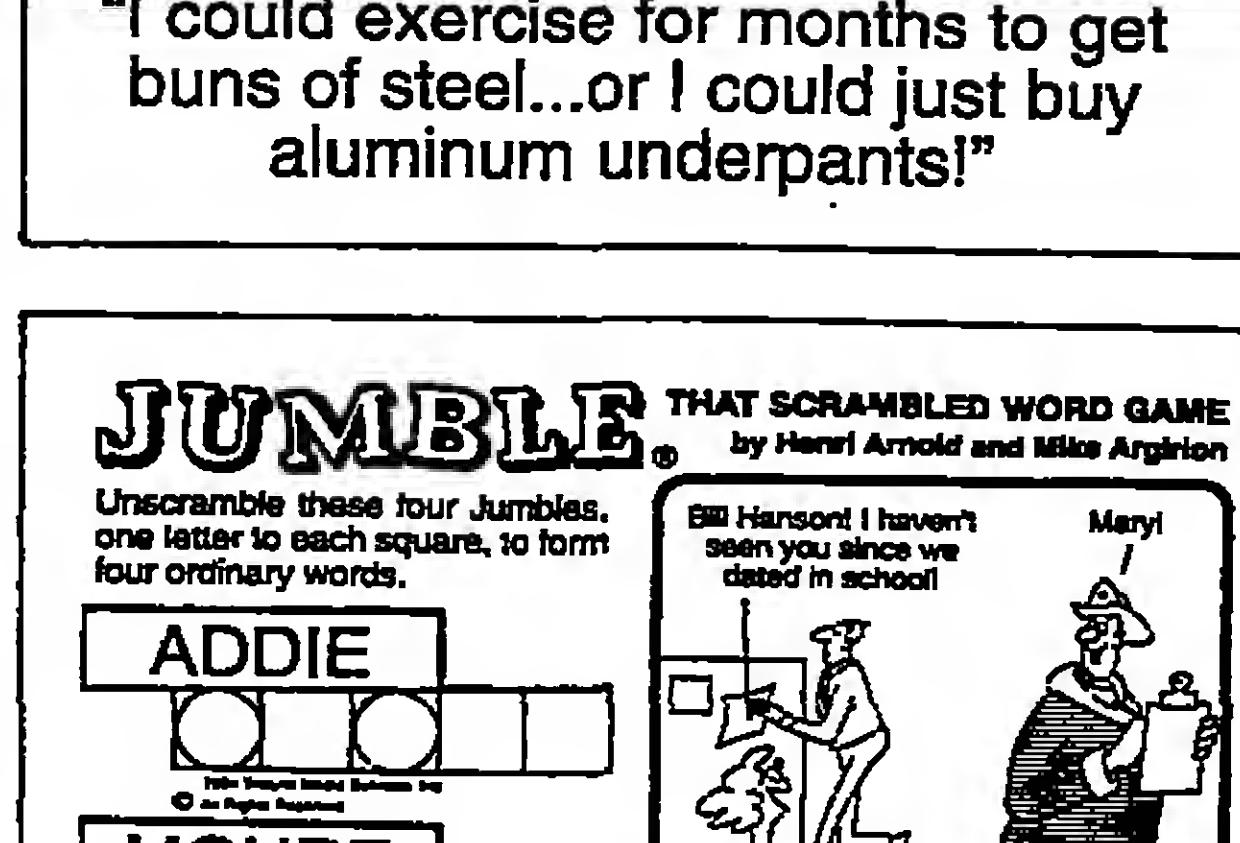
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

1 Flower holder
5 Post address
10 Ghost
14 Dutch cheese
15 Turkish city
16 Mother's mother
17 Vignette
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20 Bowler's score
21 Daffodil
23 Diplomatic staff member
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45 "Do unto others..."
46 A man's cousin
51 "We are off."
52 Cosmetic
53 Garment
54 Songbird
55 "I'm further."
56 Dislike
57 "Out of the storm."
58 "Wales"
59 Cornelian Fox
60 "A" block
70 Lively dance

12 "Sic transit
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11 Royal reception
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12 Country
13 "Fool's Day"
14 "Wales"
15 "de-France"
16 "Bonne and
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24 Mistake
25 Starling
26 "Decap" — Dior
27 "Ropes" — Auer
28 "Mittens" — Adair
29 "Bald" — Bro
30 "Starlite" — Vicks
31 "Gretchen"
32 "Rhythm"
33 "In the act of
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crime"
36 Tribal symbol
40 "I Remember"
41 Wizard
42 "Marquis de
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43 "Gambing game"
44 "Rhythm"
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committin a
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mors" — Latin
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48 "Bald" — Bro
49 "Starlite" — Vicks
50 "I Remember"
51 "Gretchen"
52 "Rhythm"
53 "In the act of
committin a
crime"
54 "Tide" — Lulu
55 "Airema"
56 "Eze" — Eze
57 "Carson's
prodecessor"
58 "McClure of TV"
59 "Ston"

Financial **Jordan Times**
Markets in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Bid 2/11/94	Tokyo Close 2/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6335	1.6348
Deutsche Mark	1.4948	1.4927
Swiss Franc	1.2458	1.2438
French Franc	5.1190	5.1190**
Japanese Yen	98.65	98.40
European Currency Unit	1.2735	1.2754**

* USD per STG

** European Opening at 1000 A.M. GMT

Currency	1 MTH*	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.43	5.75	6.06
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.61	6.25	6.95
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.08	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.60	3.87	4.00	4.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.24	2.35	2.60
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.64	6.05	6.59

Interest Rates

Date: 2/11/1994

Currency	1 MTH*	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.43	5.75	6.06
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.61	6.25	6.95
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.08	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.60	3.87	4.00	4.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.24	2.35	2.60
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.64	6.05	6.59

Interest Rates

Date: 2/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.1236	1.1292
Deutsche Mark	0.4605	0.4628
Swiss Franc	0.5526	0.5554
French Franc	0.1344	0.1351
Japanese Yen	0.7129	0.7165
Dutch Guilder	0.4108	0.4129
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0450
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6090	1.6220
Lebanese Lira	0.040835	0.042820
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1843
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1876	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.0200
Omani Riyal	1.7680	1.7840
UAE Dirham	0.1870	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3160
Cypriot Pound	1.4140	1.5180

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Cypriot Pound	1.4140	1.5180

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6	

English clubs eliminated in UEFA Cup

ARIS (AFP) — English clubs were dumped out of the UEFA Cup Tuesday — with both Aston Villa and Newcastle United losing on the way goals' rule.

But big continental clubs to through after first-leg defeats included Deportivo La Coruna, of Spain and Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany.

France's 1993 European Cup winners Marseille made valiant effort to come back after being beaten 2-0 in the first leg by Swiss side Sion.

But their 3-1 victory wasn't enough and they, too, lost on away goals.

Just days after European football's governing body gave English clubs another UEFA Cup place, bringing the total up to four, the 1994 campaign was over.

Turkish club Trabzonspor, down to ten men, drew 1-1 on aggregate with Villa, 1-1 Spain's Athletic Bilbao and 3-3 overall with Newcastle United.

Added to Blackburn Rovers' loss to Swedish partners Trelleborgs in the first leg, it completed a black rammament for English football.

Villa went clear and levelled their 10 overall through Ian Atkinson with 13 minutes left and it began to look though it would be enough take them into extra-time just opponents who had ended Oign sent off for a berate hand-ball.

But they suffered a lapse in concentration in the dying ends and Abdullah's corner was headed by Cengiz for an to pounce and hook ball into the roof of the

goal.

It proved crucial — though Enhiogu scored 1-1 for Villa with the last of the match.

A couple of dozen Turkish

came on to the pitch to

breathe with their players



Olympique's midfielder Jean Marc Ferreri (L) passes FC Sion's Raphael Wicky in their UEFA Cup match Tuesday

and at least one was attacked by a Villa supporter, who ran from the other end.

The club were fined 12,000 pounds by UEFA when a similar invasion followed their first-round victory over Inter Milan, and they are certain to be punished again.

Athletic Bilbao's 1-0 win in front of 47,000 fans in the Basque capital was enough to end Newcastle's European dream.

But the spadework had been done at St. James Park in the first leg, when the Spaniards pulled back two late goals after trailing 3-0.

The result proved a week is a long time in football. High-flying Newcastle also lost

their unbeaten English Pre-

mission record against defending champions Manchester United Saturday.

An error by Czech keeper Pavel Smrk undid a splendid defensive performance to send Newcastle tumbling out.

Midway through the second period, Victor Alkiza put Jose Ziganda away and the man who had started Bilbao's first leg revival shot under the Czech keeper from 14 yards.

Newcastle's defeat should have been heavier, with Bilbao awarded a penalty five minutes from time when John Beresford brought down the breaking Suarez.

But Garitano's spot kick hit the bar and though he buried the rebound in the

net, the goal was ruled out because he had struck the ball twice without another player touching it.

Another Spanish club, Real Madrid, swept into the third round with a 4-0 home win over Dynamo Moscow.

Real, who drew 2-2 last month, beat the Russians with a late flurry of goals after a scoreless first half.

Chilean international striker Ivan Zamorano opened the scoring early in the second half and Argentina's Fernando Redondo made it 2-0 with a quarter of an hour to go.

Victory was sealed with two goals in the final two minutes from newcomer

Dani Garcia, a 20-year-old from Real's reserves who came on as a second-half substitute.

Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs, who toppled England's Blackburn Rovers in the previous round, were within seconds of extra-time and a possible penalty shoot-out against Lazio.

But after 180 minutes of goalless football, Croatian Alen Boksic, Lazio's signing from cash-strapped Olympique Marseille, scored in the final seconds.

Nicolas Ouedec performed the same task for Nantes, scoring both goals as the French team beat Tekstilshik Kamyshev 2-1 in the Moscow mud for a 4-1 overall win.

Stich, Edberg crash at Paris Open

IS (AFP) — Michael and Stefan Edberg disclosed Tuesday that there is something as an easy ride, in the first round, when are playing in one of the J's richest tournaments. The players crashed badly in their first matches on the sun court inside the walled Bercy Stadium in the south east of the capital.

Stich, the third-seed for the million French Indoor

and hungry for points

qualify for next month's eight-player ATP World

ships in Frankfurt, made to look less than

by French newcomer Roux and surren-

3-6, 4-6.

Edberg, seeded fifth, once again against rival Petr Korda, going 6-4, 1-6, 4-6 — his fifth in the 1992 French Open

up in eight meetings.

He never looked com-

plete against the 21-year-old

card entry from

who, wearing his cap to front, in Goellner went for his strokes and did not respect for his opponent's status.

Stich was the 73rd ranked

second win in as many

On Monday he put

German player —

Karsten Braasch, had shown few weaknesses.

He played solid all round,

hit the ball hard, and was

very quick around the court," he said.

Roux, surprisingly calm af-

ter his triumph and the sort of

player France's newly-

appointed Davis Cup captain

Yannick Noah may be look-

ing for in his quest to

restore French success in the

competition, said: "Obvi-

ously I'm delighted I won, but I

didn't throw my racket after

the final point. You don't

do that in a second round match at Bercy. You do that when you win the tournament."

Edberg, who won the

event in 1990, started well

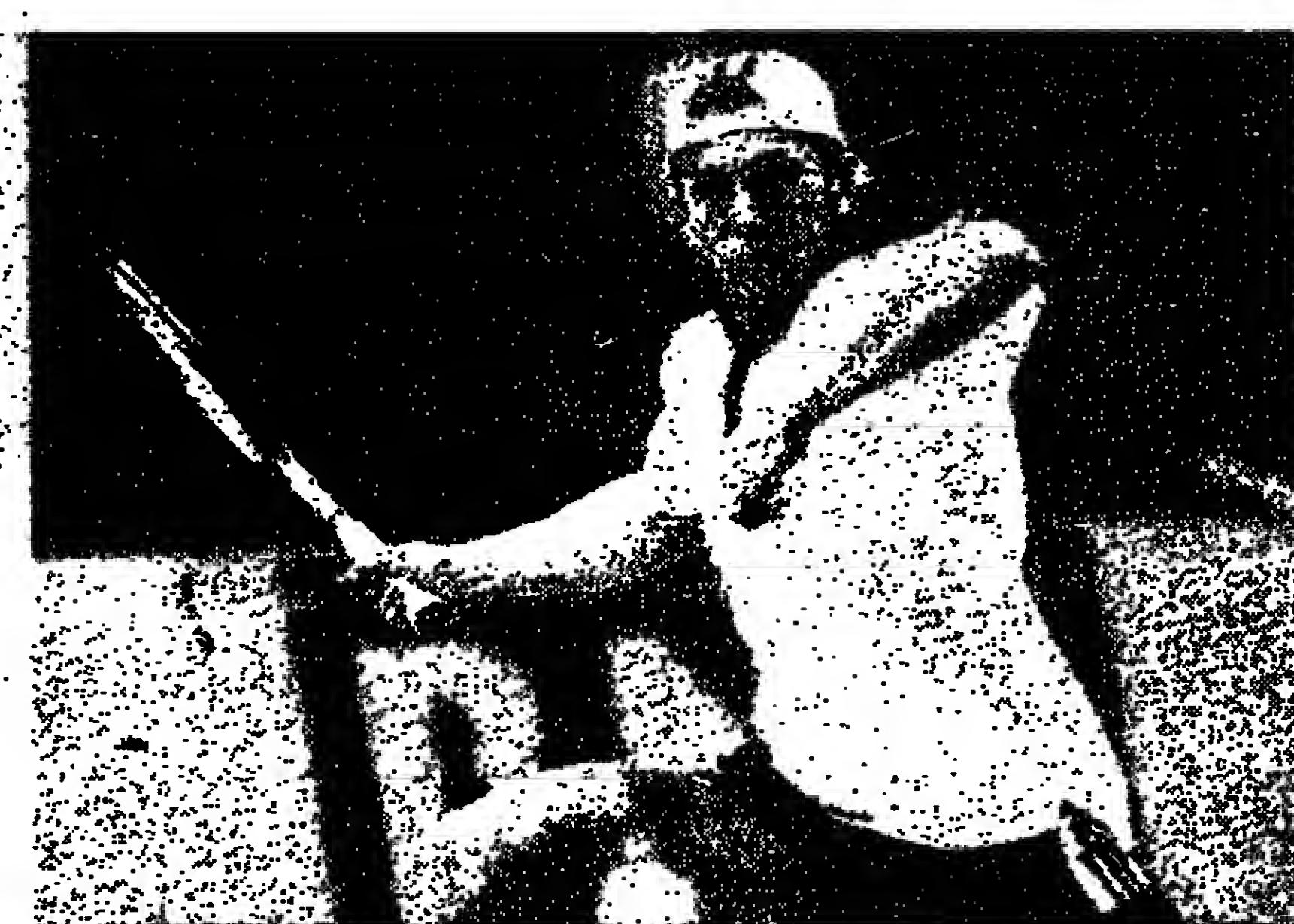
but then went off the boil

against a player who only

recently returned to the tour

from a lay-off after suffering

hip and groin injuries at Ro-



Frenchman Lionel Roux returns the ball to Germany's Michael Stich during their encounter at the Paris Open (AFP photo)

land Garros in May.

The Swedish player's second serve was too vulnerable to Korda's blistering returns.

Stich and Edberg were not the only favourites to be beaten.

Stich said Roux, who reached today's match by beating another German Karsten Braasch, had shown few weaknesses.

"He played solid all round, hit the ball hard, and was very quick around the court," he said.

Roux, surprisingly calm af-

ter his triumph and the sort of

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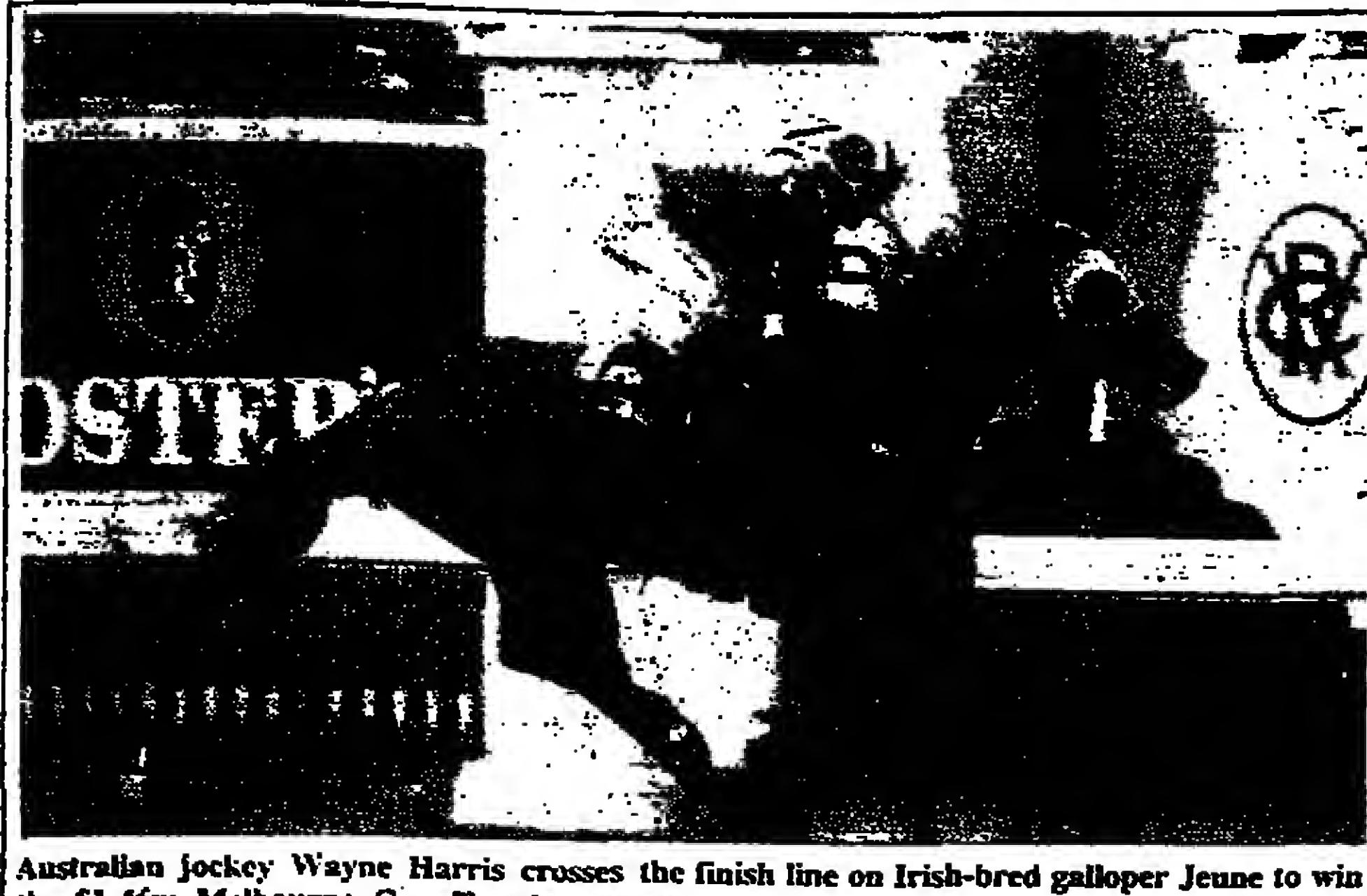
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oundup Ramtha icks off



Australian Jockey Wayne Harris crosses the finish line on Irish-bred galloper Jeune to win the \$1.46m Melbourne Cup Tuesday (AFP)

Everton enjoy first win of season

LONDON (AFP) — Everton's search for their first premiership victory of the season came to a welcome end Tuesday night with a 1-0 victory over West Ham.

Gary Ablett's second-half winner, his second of the season but only the fifth league goal of his career, will have eased the pressure on his under-fire manager Mike Walker.

But this much-needed first victory in 15 league and cup games, following the draw with Arsenal, still leaves Walker's men rooted to the bottom of the division.

Albert's vital match-winner came 10 minutes after the break as he rushed in at the back post to head into the roof of the net, after Matthew Jackson had flicked on an Ian Durrant corner.

But with two difficult away games against his old club Norwich and Mersey rivals Liverpool coming up, Walker will be feeling far from certain about his future.

Walker's mood would not have been helped beforehand with the news that former Everton favourite, Howard Kendall, had quit his Greek club Xanthi, though chief executive Jim Greenwood was quick to rubbish speculation it was the prelude for his return to Goodison Park.

Struggling Ipswich ended a six-game losing run in convincing fashion with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Leeds.

John Lyall's team, moved up a place to third bottom of the Premiership table thanks to goals from Steve Sedgley and Geraint Williams — his first for the club — and their first clean sheet in 15 games.

Sedgley, a 1 million pound summer signing, opened the scoring after Uruguayan

Adrian Paz had combined well with Dane Claus Thomsen.

Skipper Williams, scoreless since joining Ipswich from

Derby over two years ago, made the wait worthwhile as he swept home Bontcho Guentchev's pass to secure victory.

Premier division standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Newcastle	12	9	2	1	29	12	29
Nottingham Forest	12	8	3	1	25	13	27
Manchester United	12	8	1	3	21	9	25
Blackburn	12	7	3	2	25	12	24
Liverpool	12	7	2	3	28	13	23
Leeds	13	6	3	4	18	15	21
Chelsea	11	6	1	4	21	14	19
Norwich	12	5	4	3	12	11	19
Manchester City	12	5	3	4	21	17	18
Arsenal	12	5	3	4	17	13	18
Tottenham	12	5	2	5	21	24	17
Southampton	12	4	3	5	18	22	15
Coventry	12	4	3	5	14	20	15
West Ham	13	4	2	7	8	15	14
Queen's Park Rangers	13	3	4	6	19	23	13
Sheffield Wednesday	12	3	4	5	15	21	13
Crystal Palace	12	3	4	5	8	14	13
Wimbledon	12	3	3	6	9	18	12
Aston Villa	12	2	4	6	11	18	10
Ipswich	13	3	1	9	13	24	10
Leicester	12	2	3	7	14	24	9
Everton	13	1	4	8	9	24	7

Note: Tottenham to be deducted 6 points at the end of the season due to financial irregularities.

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Bulls bid farewell to Jordan

CHICAGO (AP) — With a bronze statue unveiled outside the stadium and a No. 23 jersey raised to the rooftop, Chicago said farewell Tuesday night to the best basketball player this city — and the sport — has known.

For two hours, teammates, opponents, fans, former coaches, entertainers and family celebrated and lauded not only Michael Jordan's basketball career but also his life.

It was glitzy. It was made-for-TV. It was loud. They saluted the man who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight championships before taking early retirement 13 months ago.

Jordan's highlights — an NCAA championship, two Olympic gold medals, three MVPs in the regular season and three in the NBA finals

Bob Knight, who coached Jordan on the 1984 Olympic team, said Jordan might have been more than the best basketball player to step on the court with his acrobatic moves and incomparable assortment of dunks.

Jordan's No. 23, known worldwide on athletic apparel that has helped make him a multimillionaire, was retired. Jordan ended the ceremony by handing it to the ceiling as his three children stood by.

Ahli target third consecutive title

1st Division Basketball Championship begins today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Titleholders Al Ahli will be targeting their third consecutive 1st Division Basketball Championship crown when the Kingdom's premier basketball competition begins Thursday.

For the first time, this year's competition includes seven teams: Al Ahli, former champions Al Orthodoxi, Al Jazireh, Al Jali, Al Watani, Al Hussein and Homenmen.

Most experts of the game conclude that the preparations and form of participating teams vary so much that it will be difficult to determine most standings, unlike other years when at least the top two places were undisputedly reserved for Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi.

This season may bring about a surprising turn of results. However, one fact seems to be quite clear — Al Ahli are well-prepared to retain their precious crown for one more year.

In an effort to upgrade the standard of competition, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) last year promoted only one team from the Second Division instead of the usual two, making the number of competing teams seven for the first time. However, this year two teams will be relegated, and only one will be promoted, reducing the number to six as of next season.

Therefore, 1994 marks a turning point in the First Division and adds more

competition and flavour not only to the top teams but also to the rest who will be fighting to stay among the prestigious group.

Here's an analysis of the status of participating teams:

Al Ahli

The Al Ahli camp has had the most consistent and serious training season with over 18 top players taking part. These include all-time stars Marwan Ma'touq, Samir Murqus, Yousef Ghazlouq, Naser Bushnaq and an abundant lineup of younger, energetic players like Marwan Al Sa'eedi, Walid Badran, Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Zeid Al Khlas, and many others who are determined to hold on to the championship for years to come.

The team has had very positive results in matches against top teams in Romania during the summer, and are led by their Russian coach Alexander Sasha who was instrumental in altering Al Ahli's style that enabled them to clinch the title away from Al Orthodoxi in 1990 and win it again in 1992 and 1993. Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title.

Al Orthodoxi

The former champions who last won the title in 1991 are in an unenviable position. Al Orthodoxi are now in a transitional phase where many experienced older players have quit the team while their younger lineup

was not prepared to take charge.

Al Orthodoxi, who had an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989, mainly depended on the individual efforts of top players, especially Murad Barakat. Thus the team lost ground to their all-time rivals after Barakat lost form starting three years ago and quit the team last year.

Barakat is now coaching the team, hoping that his players will at least firmly hold on to runner-up position until they are ready to reclaim their crown.

Al Orthodoxi will have to put up a great fight in order to do just that, facing ambitious contenders Al Jazireh and Al Jali — both aiming to advance their usual third and fourth placed standings.

Al Orthodoxi will be led by Hisham Al Barbari, Raed Jaber, Omar Abdul Majid, while Mohammad Abu Dheis is back on the team together with new recruit Naser Bassam.

Al Jali

Al Jali have mostly maintained a third or fourth placed standing during recent years. However, their coach has recently asserted that they have had a three-month-long training programme and that they were eyeing more than third place this season.

The team has a good

lineup of players including Hisham Al Barbari, Raed Jaber, Omar Abdul Majid, while Mohammad Abu Dheis is back on the team together with new recruit Naser Bassam.

Al Watani

Al Watani managed to finish fifth last season after overcoming usual fifth place holders Al Hussein.

Al Jazireh

One of the most ambitious teams in the country, Al Jazireh has in recent years become a strong contender for most of the Kingdom's basketball titles.

Al Orthodoxi

The team includes an

ambitious lineup including Nadin Nahhas, Ihab Safr, Faris Dahabreh and Matarwan Oma'r

Al Hussein

Not only did Al Hussein

lose fifth place to Al Watani last year, they also lost

the contribution of two ex-

ceptional players — Naser Alawneh from Al Jazireh and Naser Bassam to Al Jali.

This year the team is faced with the grim prospect of relegation for the first time.

In order to avert that, Al Hussein will have to beat Homenmen and Al Watani or Al Jali to secure their place.

Al Hussein have there fore been training seriously and had a series of preparatory matches.

The team includes Mu'tafa Al Kofahi, Hadi Al Sayes, Sami Hasan and a young lineup of players.

Homenmen

Homenmen have struggled for the past decade trying to gain a firm place in the First Division, but these efforts have so far failed mainly due to the lack of substitutes and younger age-groups to replace older players as they quit the game.

Last year Homenmen overcame Al Abassi and Al Yarmouk to win the Second Division title and return once again to the first division.

However, the team be gan serious preparations late and are therefore not expected to be able to avoid relegation again.

The team includes Sevan Sarkissian, Vazken Ajemian, Robert Chatmajan, Vicken Avakian, and brilliant centre Al'A Abu Rahmeh who was one of the best players in the Kingdom's Under-22 Championship.

the middle of a point." I got past that and didn't lose another game after that."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin questions use of small settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called into question Wednesday the usefulness of small Israeli settlements on occupied Arab land such as in Hebron which require thousands of troops to protect them. "In Hebron, 80,000-100,000 Palestinians, 450 Israelis," Mr. Rabin told members of the United Jewish Appeal, an international fund-raising organization. "And to protect them we need three battalions all the time," Mr. Rabin said. An Israeli battalion is made up of about 300 soldiers. "They don't protect us — we have to protect them," Mr. Rabin noted, in a swipe at the frequent claim that the settlements add to Israel's security. "We consider it was a major mistake to disperse settlements of 15, 30, 80 families, that we need now the bulk of our regular army for their protection," he said. More than 120,000 Israelis have settled since 1967 in some 130 settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "In the West Bank there are twice as many Israeli soldiers as in Lebanon," he said. According to reports from Lebanon, Israel has about 1,000 troops stationed in its "security zone" in southern Lebanon, although the figure can rise during tense periods. Israel also maintains a Lebanese militia of some 3,000 men.

Israel ordered to put women into top jobs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's high court has ordered the government to appoint three women to the boards of two state-run companies in a precedent hailed by women's groups. Israel's Women's Network had petitioned the court based on a 1993 "affirmative action" law under which both sexes must be appropriately represented on the board of government companies "as far as possible." In a written ruling published Wednesday, the court cancelled ministerial appointments of men to two positions on the board of Israel Oil Refineries and one at the Ports and Railways Authority. The court noted that the law did not call for quotas of women but said appropriate representation would be equal numbers. Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish argued he had appointed the best candidates, but the court said women should be appointed provided they were sufficiently qualified. Some 75 senior ministry officials who are women had not even been considered by the ministry. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's advisor on women's issues released a statement "praising" the ruling.

Immigration to Israel increases

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of immigrants arriving in Israel jumped 21 per cent in October compared with the same period of last year, the government announced Wednesday. The increase reversed the negative trend of most of the year and pushed the 10-month total arrivals to 65,200, or three per cent more than for the same period of 1993, the absorption ministry said. Some 7,000 of the 8,100 who came to Israel last month were from the former Soviet Union. More than 500,000 people have emigrated to the Jewish state from the ex-Soviet empire since the Kremlin opened the floodgates in late 1989, although about five per cent have left for a better life elsewhere.

Netherlands to open office in Jericho

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The Netherlands said Tuesday it would soon open a diplomatic mission in the autonomous town of Jericho in the West Bank. The foreign ministry said the decision stemmed from an increase in Dutch activities in Jericho and also the autonomous Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule accord in May. The new mission will coordinate Dutch aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas and promote Dutch commercial interests. Until now these tasks had been the responsibility of the Dutch embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo, the ministry said.

Iranian former general released

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian authorities have released a former general and outspoken nationalist who was arrested Monday after having openly criticised the Islamic government, opposition sources said Wednesday. Azzolab Amir-Rahimi, 75, was freed late Tuesday, they said, adding that the general had been "mis-treated during his 24-hour detention. He wrote an open letter of the authorities in September in which he condemned summary executions ordered by revolutionary courts and called for political reforms. He also urged the formation of a "national salvation government." Mr. Rahimi is known for his criticism of the way the government fought the 1980-1988 war with Iraq. He was an outspoken opponent of the former regime and was jailed several times before the Islamic revolution toppled the Shah in 1979. The nationalist opposition has been tolerated but not officially recognised in Iran since the revolution. The Party of the People of Iran, led by Daryush Forouhar, is the main secular nationalist movement.

Exiled Iranian singer says daughter arrested

NICOSIA (AP) — A celebrated Iranian singer who recently left her country to join an Iranian opposition group said Wednesday authorities had arrested a 41-year-old daughter she left behind in Tehran. The singer, who goes by the single name of Marzieh, said in a statement that she recently learned that her daughter had been arrested and imprisoned three weeks ago by Iran's ruling clerics. She said her daughter, Hengameh Amini, who is married and has a 7-year-old daughter, "has committed no offence other than her mother leaving the country to help liberate her compatriots and to sing the song of freedom by joining the ranks of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an Iraq-based Iranian opposition group. Marzieh, whose full name is Ashraf-e-Sadat Mortezai, came in from Tehran in August. She vowed never to return as long as the Muslim clerics ruling Iran remained in power.

Former Sudanese commissioner to stand trial

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A former Sudanese provincial commissioner will stand trial Monday on charges of embezzling public funds while in office, a Khartoum newspaper reported Wednesday. Al Sudan Al Hadith daily said the former commissioner of Al Galabat province in east Sudan, Ali Abdallah Al Nihaila would appear before a special tribunal for allegedly embezzling 37 million Sudanese pounds (\$92,500). Mr. Nihaila was suspended from his position earlier this year pending an investigation. The paper said the investigation committee dropped a related charge against Mr. Nihaila's son but did not elaborate.

Iran marks anniversary of embassy takeover

NICOSIA (AP) — Waves of demonstrators shouting slogans against the United States protested outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran Wednesday, marking the 15th anniversary of its takeover by Iranian militants. Tehran Radio said the demonstrators converged on the embassy in downtown Tehran, shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." On Nov. 4, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries stormed the embassy and took 52 American hostages for 444 days. Tehran Radio said Tuesday the event "opened a glittering page in our nation's history." The anniversary was being marked earlier to avoid the Muslim holiday on Friday. The radio gave no indication of the size of the crowd, but said "waves" of demonstrators had thronged outside. "America's former nest of spies," as the compound is now called, has been converted into a museum, displaying equipment and documents confiscated from the embassy.

Lebanon to protest to U.N. over Israeli rejection of 425

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon will protest to the United Nations soon over Israel's rejection of a U.N. resolution calling on it to withdraw from South Lebanon, a government official said here Wednesday.

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday branded non-existent U.N. Resolution 425 of 1978 which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but he nonetheless outlined conditions for an Israeli pullout.

The Lebanese official, who requested anonymity, told AFP Mr. Rabin's remarks "revealed Israel's intentions."

He said: "A peace agreement could only be achieved after a withdrawal in line with Resolution 425."

"It is absolutely out of the question for us to consider a softer interpretation of this resolution."

Lebanon would protest to the U.N. "in the next few days," he added.

Mr. Rabin set three conditions for an Israeli pullout — satisfactory security arrangements, an association between Israel's Lebanese militia and the official Lebanese army and a gradual implementation of the agreement.

His statement came a day after he described as "interesting" Beirut's offer of a six-month ceasefire to return for a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi announced Sunday he

was ready to accept an Israeli initiative to set up a joint commission to negotiate a timetable for withdrawal from the 850-square-kilometre "security zone."

Hizbullah guerrillas said they detonated a bomb inside Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon Wednesday, killing a member of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Security officials confirmed the attack but did not say whether there were any casualties.

The group said the bomb blast took place as a SLA patrol was passing by the village of Bourj.

The body of a pro-kradhi agent was seen lying on the spot," said the Hizbullah statement.

Tension has been high in South Lebanon for the past five days amid a flare-up of guerrilla attacks that left one Israeli soldier dead and six wounded Saturday, two SLA militiamen wounded Sunday and another SLA member wounded Tuesday.

In video footage that shocked Israel, Hizbullah fighters were shown overrunning an Israeli position in Lebanon and planting their flag on the outpost in Saturday's attack.

The army said a number of Israeli soldiers abandoned the post after coming under rocket fire. Mr. Rabin issued a rare public criticism of a rare public criticism of the occupied territories.

Mr. Nazzal said Mr. Rabin told the Jordan Times Wednesday: "We (Hamas) in Jordan are not involved in arming military operations against Israeli targets or sending instructions of any kind."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly said Tuesday that Hamas ships arms into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan. This was the first such Israeli accusation since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

"Hamas' weapons come into the territories from Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Rabin reportedly told the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

A spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying that funds for fundamentalists also come from Jordan as well as Europe and the United States.

A senior military intelligence official, who was not named, by the spokesman, told the committee that Hamas had a command centre in Jordan.

"A large part of the orders to attack Israeli targets have

been transmitted by Hamas from Jordan, not by telephone or fax but by messengers," he said.

Mr. Nazzal said Mr. Rabin was trying to apportion the blame for his government's failure to guarantee security.

"The charges against groups outside Palestine is an attempt by Rabin to find a scapegoat for his failure to control his security," said Mr. Nazzal. Israel has been hit with several deadly bomb attacks in the last one month, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens. All the attacks were claimed by the military wing of Hamas, Ezzedine Al Qassam.

"We have no thing to do with organising or funding any operations in the occupied territories."

"I strongly believe Jordan will not allow itself to be used as a tool in Israel's hand in its war against Hamas," said Mr. Kabariti. "Jordan will prevent any attempt by any group to use Jordanian territory to launch attacks against Israel. This is clear in the peace treaty."

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"The Israeli prime minister



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: Divya, a potter's daughter, puts the finishing touches to earthware lamp cups which her father moulded to be sold in the market for Diwali festival. Diwali, the largest festival in India, started Wednesday (AFP photo)

COLUMN

Gorbachev convicted of slander

MOSCOW (AP) — A court has found former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev guilty of slander after he called a Moscow official corrupt. Mr. Gorbachev called Vladimir Resin, the head of the Moscow City Government Construction Department, a "shining example of a corrupt government official," in an interview with the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper. A Moscow Municipal Court Thursday fined Mr. Gorbachev one million rubles (\$325) for the comment, and ordered the newspaper to print a denial of the charge, the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets reported. The former Communist Party general secretary failed to appear at the first trial and was fined 50 rubles (a penny). At the second trial, Mr. Gorbachev sent a letter in his place, saying he was quoting material published in another publication, the Novaya Yezhnednevnaya Gazeta (New Daily Newspaper). Mr. Gorbachev will not pay the fine and plans to appeal the decision, said Georgy Ostromov, a spokesman for the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow. Mr. Ostromov made his comments to the English-language Moscow Tribune Tuesday.

Ferry stopped because of intoxicated captain

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — An Estonian cargo ferry chartered by the Estline ferry group was stopped off the Stockholm coast overnight because its captain was intoxicated, Swedish police said Wednesday. The Donata, travelling from Stockholm to Tallinn, was forbidden to travel Tuesday night but was permitted to continue on its route Wednesday, according to Swedish maritime authorities. The ferry's pilot anchored the vessel and alerted police shortly after leaving the Stockholm Harbour after noticing that the captain appeared drunk.

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Residents of the southern Egyptian town of Qena were killed in a car accident on Wednesday night after a truck exploded in the town, killing over 100 people.

Bomb exploded in Amman liquor store

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (AP) — A car bomb exploded in a liquor store in the Jordanian capital Amman on Wednesday night, killing at least 100 people and wounding many more.

The explosion occurred in a popular area of the city, causing widespread panic and confusion.

Witnesses said the explosion was heard throughout the city and that many people were injured.

Police and emergency services are at the scene, and the cause of the explosion is not yet known.

The Jordanian government has condemned the attack and called for justice to be done.

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Bakhtiar murder trial opens behind security screen in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — The alleged killers of exiled Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar went on trial on Wednesday amid massive security at the Palais de Justice (law courts) in central Paris.

The trial opened at 1.40 p.m. (1230 GMT) with three Iranians in the dock. Six others are being tried in absentia for the August 1991 killing of the late Shah's last premier in the Paris suburb of Suresnes.

Bakhtiar's three sons, his French first wife and his Iranian second wife were in the courtroom at the start of the trial.

Armed special police cordoned off the court where the trial effectively put the Islamic Tehran regime in the dock, and Massoud Hendi, suspected of giving logistical

assistance to the assassins.